

wherein:

-  $R_1$  is chosen from  $-NR'R''$  groups, wherein

- $R'$  is chosen from a hydrogen atom and a methyl group, and
- $R''$  is chosen from
  - (i) a hydrogen atom,
  - (ii) alkyl groups,
  - (iii) cycloalkyl groups,
  - (iv) an allyl group,
  - (v) a propynyl group,
  - (vi) a benzyl group,
  - (vii)  $-OR'''$  groups, wherein  $R'''$  is chosen from a hydrogen atom, alkyl groups, cycloalkyl groups, an allyl group, a propynyl group, and a benzyl group, and
  - (viii)  $-NR_3R_4$  groups, wherein
    - $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are each a methyl group, or
    - $R_3$  and  $R_4$ , which are identical or different, form, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, a

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saturated or unsaturated 4- to 5-membered  
heterocyclyl group, wherein one of said members, in  
addition to said nitrogen atom, may be an atom  
chosen from an oxygen atom, a sulphur atom, and a  
nitrogen atom,

- R<sub>2</sub> is chosen from a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, and an ethyl group,
- the bond ---- is a single bond or a double bond,
- unless otherwise stated, said alkyl groups are chosen from straight and branched  
C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl groups,
- unless otherwise stated, said cycloalkyl groups are chosen from C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> cycloalkyl  
groups,
- when said R" is chosen from a hydrogen atom, alkyl groups, cycloalkyl groups, an allyl  
group, a propynyl group, and a benzyl group:  
said group A streptogramin derivatives are chosen such that the carbon bearing  
said R<sub>1</sub> is of the R configuration,  
said salts are chosen such that the carbon bearing said R<sub>1</sub> is of the R  
configuration, and

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said mixtures are chosen such that said mixtures comprise at least one stereoisomer, wherein the carbon bearing said  $R_1$  is of the R configuration, and at least one stereoisomer, wherein the carbon bearing said  $R_1$  is of the S configuration, and wherein said R configuration is predominant, and

- when  $R''$  is chosen from said -OR'' groups and said -NR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>4</sub> groups:

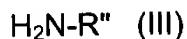
said group A streptogramin derivatives are chosen such that the carbon bearing said  $R_1$  is of the R configuration or the S configuration,

said salts are chosen such that the carbon bearing said  $R_1$  is of the R configuration or the S configuration, and

said mixtures are chosen such that said mixtures comprise at least one stereoisomer, wherein the carbon bearing said  $R_1$  is of the R configuration, and at least one stereoisomer, wherein the carbon bearing said  $R_1$  is of the S configuration.

25. A process for preparing a group A streptogramin derivative according to claim 17, said process comprising:

(a) preparing a group A streptogramin derivative, wherein  $R'$  is a hydrogen atom, by reacting, in the presence of a reducing agent, an amine of formula (III):

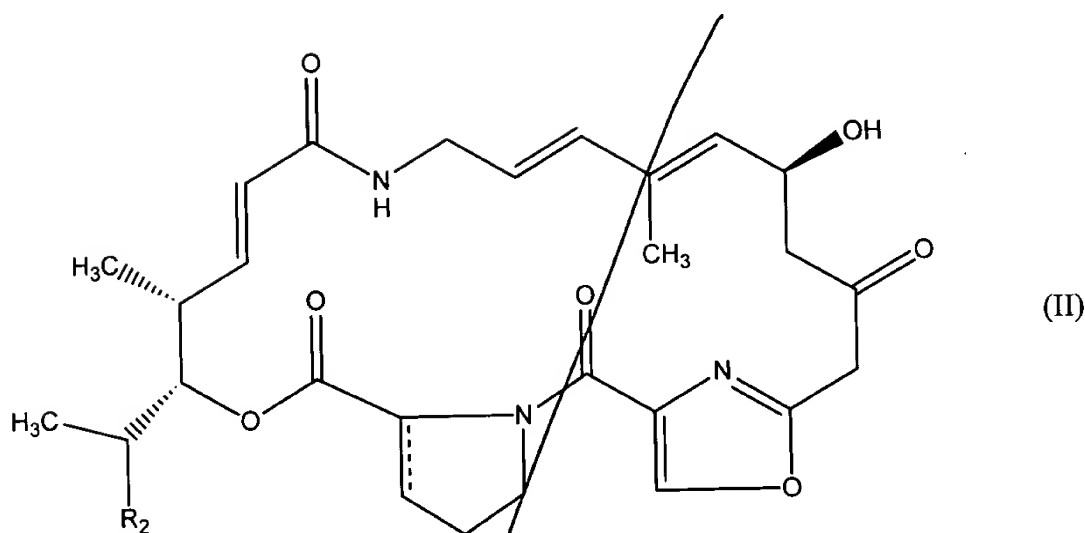


wherein  $R''$  is defined as in claim 17

with a natural pristamycin of formula (II):

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wherein R<sub>2</sub> is defined as in claim 17,

- (b) optionally reacting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), wherein R' is a hydrogen atom, with formaldehyde or a formaldehyde derivative to generate formaldehyde in situ to form a second intermediate compound, and then reacting said second intermediate compound with a reducing agent to form a group A streptogramin derivative, wherein R' is a methyl group, and
- (c) optionally converting said group A streptogramin derivative of formula (I), prepared by (a) or (b) above, to a salt and separating said salt, wherein the carbon bearing said R<sub>1</sub> is of the R configuration, or optionally separating said group A streptogramin derivative, wherein the carbon bearing said R<sub>1</sub> is of the R configuration.